

FEATURING: ♦ Agricultural Prices ♦ Milk Production ♦ Annual Layers & Eggs
 ♦ Cattle on Feed ♦ Cold Storage ♦ Slaughter ♦ Apples & Peaches

LIVESTOCK PRICES INCREASE, GRAIN PRICES MIXED

Prices received by **Kentucky** farmers at mid-January increased for all livestock commodities but were mixed for crops.

Steers and heifers 500 lbs. and over averaged \$63.00 per cwt. at mid-January, up \$2.00 from December 1998 but \$7.00 below January a year ago.

Beef cow prices averaged \$33.00 per cwt., up \$3.00 from last month but \$2.00 below January 1998.

Calves under 500 lbs. averaged \$71.00 per cwt. for mid-January, up \$3.00 from December but \$6.00 below last January.

Barrow and gilt prices increased \$11.00 from December to \$29.00 per cwt. for mid-January. They were still well below the \$34.00 per cwt. received in January 1998. Prior to the mid-January price increase, barrows and gilts had declined in price for six consecutive months. Prices at mid-January for **sows** averaged \$18.00 per cwt., an increase of \$5.00 over last month but a decrease of \$8.00 from the January 1998 price of \$26.00 per cwt. Sow prices have been below \$30.00 per cwt. since December 1997.

The **all-milk** price at mid-January was \$18.80 per cwt., up 60 cents from last month and \$3.60 above January 1998. This was the highest milk price on record. **Milk cows** for January averaged \$1,140 per head, up \$50.00 from October and \$140.00 above January a year ago.

Corn prices for mid-January at \$2.25 per bushel increased 3 cents from December but were 51 cents below January 1998. Prices for **soybeans** at mid-January were \$5.30 per bushel, down 22 cents from December and \$1.59 from January a year ago. Soybean prices have dropped below \$6.00 a bushel for the sixth consecutive month. **Winter wheat** prices for mid-January increased 20 cents to \$2.30 per bushel but were still \$1.01 below the January 1998 price of \$3.31.

turkeys, milk, lettuce, and broilers. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Lower seasonal marketings of cotton, milk, tobacco, and cottonseed more than offset the relatively higher marketings of corn, soybeans, cattle, and rice. These seasonal marketing changes more than offset an increase in prices and accounted for the one point decline in the overall index. Compared with January 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 5 points (4.9 percent) lower. Price decreases from January 1998 for corn, soybeans, hogs, and cattle more than offset price increases for milk, broilers, oranges, and tomatoes.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY		US	
		JAN 1998	DEC 1998	JAN 1999	JAN 1999
		Entire Month		Mid-Month a/	
All Corn <u>b/</u> <u>c/</u>	Bu.	2.76	2.22	2.25	2.01
Soybeans <u>b/</u>	Bu.	6.89	5.52	5.30	5.22
Winter Wheat <u>b/</u>	Bu.	3.31	2.10	2.30	2.71
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	103.00	109.00	110.00	81.40
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	67.00	71.00	72.00	71.00
All Hogs	Cwt.	33.70	17.80	28.60	25.70
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	34.00	18.00	29.00	26.10
Sows	Cwt.	26.00	13.00	18.00	19.00
All Beef Cattle <u>d/</u>	Cwt.	61.60	53.60	55.80	59.00
Steers & Heifers <u>e/</u>	Cwt.	70.00	61.00	63.00	62.40
Cows	Cwt.	35.00	30.00	33.00	33.10
Calves <u>f/</u>	Cwt.	77.00	68.00	71.00	81.90
Milk Cows <u>g/</u>	Ea.	1,000.00	-	1,140.00	1,250.00
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	15.20	18.20	18.80	17.70
Fluid <u>h/</u>	Cwt.	15.30	18.20	--	17.80
Manufactured	Cwt.	12.70	15.80	--	16.10
Hog-Corn Ratios <u>i/</u>	Bu.	12.2	8.0	12.7	12.8

a/ Preliminary. b/ Includes contract sales paid during month. c/ Includes yellow and white corn. d/ "Steers and heifers" and "cows" combined. e/ 500 lbs. and over. f/ Under 500 lbs. g/ Published only in Jan., Apr., July & Oct. h/ Includes surplus diverted to manufacturing. i/ Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog live weight.

The **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in January was 98 based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (1.0 percent) from December. Price increases from December for hogs, tomatoes, cattle, and oranges more than offset price decreases for

U. S. MILK PRODUCTION UP 3.0 PERCENT

Kentucky milk production for December 1998 totaled 135 million pounds, down 6 percent from a year earlier, but up 5 percent from November. Average number of cows on farms at 130,000 head, was down 10,000 from last year, and down 1,000 from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,040 pounds, up 20 pounds from December 1997 and up 60 pounds from November 1998.

Milk production in the **20 major States** during December totaled 11.4 billion pounds, up 3.0 percent from production in these same States in December 1997. November revised production, at 10.9 billion pounds was up 2.7 percent from November 1997. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,478 pounds for December, 40 pounds above December 1997. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.74 million head, 12,000 head more than December 1997 but 1,000 head less than November 1998.

ANNUAL EGG PRODUCTION

Kentucky egg production during the year ending November 30, 1998 was 863 million eggs, compared with 710 million during 1997. An average of 3.5 million layers were on Kentucky operations during 1998, up 23 percent from the 1997 average. Each layer produced an average of 245 eggs during 1998, compared with last year's average of 249.

U.S. egg production during the year ending November 30, 1998 totaled 79.7 billion eggs, up 3 percent from the previous year's total of 77.5 billion eggs. Layer numbers during 1998 averaged 312 million, up 3 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 1998 was 256 eggs, compared with the 1997 average of 255 eggs per layer.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.63 million head on January 1, 1999. The inventory was 5 percent below January 1, 1998 but 1 percent above January 1, 1997. The inventory included 6.44 million steers and steer calves, down 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.14 million head, down 4 percent from 1998.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.50 million, 4 percent below 1997 and 12 percent below 1996. Net placements were 1.41 million. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 396,000, 600-699 pounds were 492,000, 700-799 pounds were 362,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 246,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.81 million, 4 percent above 1997 and 8 percent above 1996.

DECEMBER 1998 UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Type	Dec. 1997	Dec. 1998	Dec. 98 % of Dec. 97
Egg Production			
Eggs Produced (Million)	6,841	7,008	102
Average Layers (000)	311,888	320,036	103
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,193	2,190	100
Egg Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Jan 1 (000)	32,196	32,836	102
Chicks Hatched (000)	35,890	35,430	99
Broiler Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Jan 1 (000)	590,889	619,107	105
Chicks Hatched (000)	711,972	733,797	103

Other disappearance totaled 85,000 during December, the same as 1997 but 1 percent below 1996.

CATTLE ON FEED HISTORIC 7 STATES

Cattle on feed January 1, 1999, in the historic 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.02 million, down 5 percent from the previous year but 1 percent above January 1, 1997. The inventory included 5.43 million steers and steer calves, down 6 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.55 million head, down 2 percent from 1998.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.24 million, 5 percent below 1997 and 13 percent below 1996.

Marketings during December totaled 1.55 million, 4 percent above 1997 and 10 percent above 1996.

Other disappearance during December was 69,000 head, 1 percent above both 1997 and 1996.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on December 31, 1998 were greater than year earlier levels for pork, butter, concentrated orange juice, chicken and vegetables. Cooler stocks of peanuts, apples, pecans, and natural cheese were higher than a year earlier.

All U S. Warehouse Stocks				Dec 98 as % of	
Commodity	Dec 31 1997	Nov 30 1998	Dec 31 1998	Dec 1997	Nov 1998
Frozen Poultry	1,000 lbs			Percent	
Chicken:					
Broilers (Whole)	24,227	15,418	18,853	78	122
Other Chicken	582,618	642,347	693,377	119	108
Total Chicken <u>1/</u>	614,252	663,310	718,496	117	108
Turkey	415,053	314,863	308,714	74	98
Total Frozen Poultry <u>2/</u>	1,031,169	982,664	1,030,967	100	105
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	318,342	291,004	268,982	84	92
Pork:					
Bellies	44,763	41,711	72,529	162	174
Total Frozen Pork <u>3/</u>	346,390	443,437	504,480	146	114
Total Meat <u>4/</u>	722,351	794,273	823,616	114	104

1/ Includes broilers, hens and other chickens. 2/ Includes chicken, turkey and ducks. 3/ Includes picnics, hams, bellies, loins, ribs, trimmings, and other frozen pork. 4/ Includes frozen beef, pork, veal, lamb and mutton, other frozen meat, canned hams, and other canned meat.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.94 billion pounds in December, up 6 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in December 1997 and up 6 percent from the previous record high for December set in 1994. Beef production, at 2.10 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.90 million head, up 1 percent from 1997. The average live weight was up 21 pounds from the previous year, at 1,214 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.80 billion pounds, up 10 percent from the previous year and 10 percent higher than the previous record high for December set in 1994. Hog kill totaled 9.43 million head, 9 percent above 1997. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 260 pounds. December 1997 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. December 1998 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: UNITED STATES & KENTUCKY ^{1/}

Type	December 1997	November 1998	December 1998	December 98 % of	
				December 1997	November 1998
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	2,024	2,004	2,101	104	105
Veal	26	19	22	83	113
Pork	1,641	1,683	1,799	110	107
Lamb & Mutton	23	19	23	101	121
Total U.S.	3,714	3,726	3,945	106	106
Total Kentucky	42.1	47.9	51.4	122	107

^{1/} Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. DECEMBER 1997 & 1998 ^{1/}

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
Kentucky						
Cattle	4.6	5.8	4,584	5,931	990	1,016
Hogs	203.0	245.0	53,299	64,188	263	262
Sheep & Lambs	0.7	0.6	115	90	156	160
United States						
Cattle	2,877.0	2,896.2	3,433,646	3,515,256	1,193	1,214
Hogs	8,623.1	9,425.6	2,238,746	2,451,780	260	260
Sheep & Lambs	348.5	354.5	47,248	46,909	136	132

^{1/} Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

APPLES AND PEACHES

Utilized production of **commercial apples** in **Kentucky** totaled 9.00 million pounds in 1998, up 3.20 million pounds from 1997. Prices averaged 28.4 cents per pound, up 2.3 cents from 1997 but still down from the record high 31.6 cents in 1996. The value of utilized production totaled \$2.56 million, up from the \$1.51 million of 1997. March freezes hurt some varieties with individual orchard production varying from a very good crop to failure. Frequent spring and early summer rains reduced spray effectiveness in some areas. A dry summer resulted in a smaller production than expected in early summer.

U.S. utilized apple production for 1998 was estimated at 10.6 billion pounds, 3 percent greater than 1997. Production in Eastern States was reduced as a result of dry conditions but was more than offset by large production increases in Washington,

Colorado, and Idaho. Washington had the largest production with 5.90 billion pounds.

Kentucky's utilized **peach** production totaled 1.50 million pounds in 1998, up 1.00 million pounds from 1997. Prices averaged 37.5 cents per pound, up 7.5 cents from 1997 but well below the record high 62.3 cents per pound of 1996. Value of all utilized 1998 production totaled \$563,000 compared to \$150,000 in 1997. The mid-March freezes hurt production to various degrees with very few producers reporting a total loss.

U.S. utilized peach production in 1998 was estimated at 2.35 billion pounds, down 6 percent from last year but 15 percent above 1996. The California crop, accounting for 74 percent of the U.S. peach crop, was down 6 percent from 1997. California production totaled 1.74 billion pounds.

APPLE AND PEACH UTILIZED PRODUCTION, PRICE AND VALUE, SELECTED STATES AND U.S.

STATE	Utilized Production			Price Per Pound			Value of Utilized Production		
	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
	Million Pounds			Cents			1,000 Dollars		
	APPLES - COMMERCIAL CROP								
Illinois	51.0	67.0	35.0	29.0	19.6	18.2	14,775	13,103	6,387
Indiana	46.0	48.0	50.0	26.8	21.8	24.4	12,331	10,469	12,213
KENTUCKY	9.6	5.8	9.0	31.6	26.1	28.4	3,035	1,512	2,556
Missouri	32.0	50.5	29.0	23.3	18.9	17.8	7,440	9,551	5,163
Ohio	90.0	60.0	69.0	26.6	22.1	21.5	23,970	13,274	14,858
Tennessee	9.8	8.5	9.0	24.1	23.8	22.6	2,364	2,023	2,034
Virginia	260.0	262.0	268.0	11.6	10.6	9.1	30,160	27,741	24,432
W. Virginia	100.0	110.0	95.0	11.1	10.3	7.9	11,100	11,300	7,500
U.S.	10,330.0	10,254.3	10,597.2	15.9	15.4	11.6	1,641,462	1,575,403	1,226,380
	PEACHES - COMMERCIAL CROP								
Illinois	1.0	10.0	13.5	64.0	40.6	43.3	640	4,060	5,846
Indiana	1.9	2.4	3.7	47.3	54.5	31.8	899	1,308	1,177
KENTUCKY	0.4	0.5	1.5	62.3	30.0	37.5	249	150	563

Missouri	3.3	9.5	9.0	46.0	35.0	39.6	1,518	3,325	3,564
Ohio	7.1	5.8	6.5	46.2	40.0	41.6	3,280	2,320	2,704
Tennessee	0.4	3.0	3.0	67.5	38.0	45.0	270	1,140	1,350
Virginia	13.0	8.0	12.0	34.0	28.0	30.0	4,420	2,240	3,600
W. Virginia	15.5	10.5	12.4	36.9	29.3	26.4	5,726	3,080	3,270
U.S.	2,043.8	2,508.4	2,350.9	19.1	17.7	18.8	389,894	444,137	442,939

Internet Access: Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service (KASS) data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

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